

# American History Literature Guides

*Read, Reflect, Discuss, Write*

**We select a few key books from each year's assignments for formal literary analysis and composition.**

**Why only a few?**

**Because reading for pleasure is also a "skill" that we strongly encourage through family read-alouds and independent reading outside of "school time."**

**Our literature guides teach students to read more deeply, develop good reading habits, as well as teaching a variety of composition skills related to each book.**

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# *The Courage of Sarah Noble*

by Alice Dalgliesh

**We provide a summary of each book for you, the teacher.**

**We know you don't have time to read every book, although if you can, you'll enjoy them just as much as your child does!**

## **Story Synopsis**

Eight-year-old Sarah travels with her father from their home in Massachusetts to the frontier of Connecticut in 1707. She is to accompany her father and cook for him while he builds the family a new home. They befriend the local Indians and get their help to build the house. When the house is built, Sarah is left behind with an Indian family as her father returns to bring the rest of the family to the new home. Sarah is quite fearful about this, but she soon adapts to the life of the Indians and they love her as their own. When her father returns she is reunited with her mother and family. Throughout the story, Sarah is attached to her cloak as the symbol of her courage and the words of the mother she left behind. When reunited with her family, she finally hangs the cloak on the hook. Based on a true story, this book provides for a good discussion of courage and an interesting look at the time period.

## **Teaching Tips**

The book is divided into 11 chapters. You could have the student read one chapter a day and discuss it. If your student is reading out loud, this is possible. However, if the student is reading silently, he may want to read more at one sitting. You could assign several chapters to be read at the student's pace. Instruct the student to tell you when he has finished the day's assigned reading and sit down with him to discuss the story so far. The questions in this guide are divided by chapters. If a student is reading more than one chapter at a time, read through the questions and decide which would be most appropriate. (For example, the prediction questions are useless if the student has read ahead.)

Before reading the story, use the "before reading" activities. This will help set the stage for the story and introduce the thematic topics. Then go over the vocabulary list with the student. You may provide the meaning of the word and use it in a sentence and then ask the student to think of a sentence using the word. Discuss the story as the student reads using the discussion questions as starting points. After reading resume conversation about the courage theme and select some extension activity for the student.

## **Before Reading**

- Throughout this story, Sarah considers whether she has the courage to move to a new place. Discuss "courage" with the student. Ask him what he thinks courage is, what does it mean to have courage. Record what the student thinks about courage on the chart on the next page and save it for the end of the story.

**Many of the guides include activities to prepare for reading the book.**

## Discussion Questions **Discussion questions are provided**

### Part One

#### Chapters 1 and 2

1. Explain the government of the clan. Who is in charge and makes decisions? What are the responsibilities of the women? Is this a good arrangement? Explain. Why do you think the tribes set it up this way?
2. What is the purpose of the Roia:ne and who is chosen for that position?
3. What can you tell so far about the characters of Ohkwa'ri and his sister Otsi:stia?
4. Why do you think the elders did not tell Grabber and his friends to not invade the neighboring tribe? What did they tell the boys instead? Do you think this is an effective way of handling the problem? Explain.
5. Get settled in your mind the relationships between the characters presented so far: Ohkwa'ri's uncles, mother, grandmother, father. What are their names, and do you know anything about their characters yet?

## Chart of Opinion Paper

<p>Introduction: Name the story and briefly summarize it. Then say whether it was good or bad, exciting or dull, realistic or unrealistic, etc. (Opinion Statement)</p>
<p>Opinion Statement:</p>
<p>Example from the story that shows your opinion:</p>
<p>Another example from the story that shows your opinion:</p>
<p>The strongest of best example that shows your opinion:</p>
<p>Conclusion: Final thought about the story</p>

**We include guided writing assignments  
and projects related to each book.**